

press release

The Gallery

GARY HILL

October 8-31, 1981

Tues-Sat, 1-6pm

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 10, 4-6pm

The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street

Tel: 925-3615

From October 8th through the 31st, The Kitchen Gallery will feature a new video installation by GARY HILL entitled, PRIMARILY SPEAKING.

"PRIMARILY SPEAKING incorporates spoken text, two videotapes, color fields (red, green, blue, yellow, cyan, magenta), sculptural elements, and electronic automation of eight channels of audio and video outputs. The installation was developed from a text constructed from everyday idioms of speech. The idioms are used as language cutouts and are 'keyed' into narrative schemes. Rather than dropping away as merely cliches, they become recharged through the voice of the reflexive character. The character, as such, evolves as an internal dialogue, emerging in a process similar to standing in front of a mirror for a long time. (one's image is a kind of idiom which must be peeled away from time to time)." (Gary Hill)

(i don't know/you tell me/whats what/maybe you prefer
sight-seeing and i'm better off leaving well enough alone/
i think we're off the track/i know we're off the track/
i never for one moment thought i could railroad this
through/i knew it was coming/this is the diminishing re-
turn i failed to negotiate/sad but true/less is more/
more or less/more and more of the time/oh well/such as it
is/in the meantime/let's not loose sight of the facts/
they do not need reiterating/there's a time and place for
everything/i hope we haven't come here under false pretenses/
there are things that should be said and things that should
be done/you've been around and i've been around/double
talking will get us nowhere and second guessing is a lost
art)

(Excerpt from text of PRIMARILY SPEAKING)

The artist gratefully acknowledges electronic design by Dave Jones and Serge Modular used in creating this installation. The work was made possible in part by the Rockefeller Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts.

After exhibiting his sculpture for several years, GARY HILL became interested in the video medium. Since 1973, this work has taken the form of videotapes and installations that incorporate video imagery and sound. Gary Hill has been an artist-in-residence at the Artists TV Lab at WNET/13 in New York City. He was a visiting professor at the Center for Media Study, SUNY Buffalo, during 1979-80, and became a member of the Board of Directors for the Media Alliance in 1981. He has received grants for his video work from the NEA, NYSCA, WNET/13, CAPS and the Rockefeller Foundation and has been awarded prizes at the Athens, Ohio International Film and Video Festival (1976 and 1978) and the Ithaca Video Festival (1977, 1978 and 1979).